

CLAIMS

1. A method for preventing iron deficiency comprising parenterally administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of ferric pyrophosphate, so that bioavailable iron is safely and effectively administered.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the route of administration is selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous, intramuscular, transdermal and intravenous administration.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the route is intravenous administration.

4. A method according to claim 2 wherein ferric pyrophosphate is administered to the patient at a rate of about 40 mg per hour.